



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5312; Fax 824-5309
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Dear Federal and/or State Commercial Fishing Permit Holder:

As the holder of a current/valid state or federal permit for a fishery that falls under one or more of the Category I/II fisheries listed on the reverse of the enclosed Certificate, you are automatically registered in the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP).

You are receiving this letter and enclosures for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Pursuant to Section 118 of the MMPA, participants in Category I/II commercial fisheries must be registered in the MMAP. Only those Category I/II commercial fishery participants registered under the MMAP are exempted from the MMPA's general prohibition on the taking of non-endangered/threatened marine mammals. (At this time, no takes of endangered/threatened marine mammals are authorized in the Atlantic.)

If you plan to participate in one or more of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the enclosed Certificate, you must:

- Maintain the enclosed MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a copy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the Certificate. This Certificate, in combination with a current/valid state or federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered/threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations. In the case of non-vessel fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a copy, must be in the possession of the person in charge of the operation.
- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the enclosed Mortality/Injury Reporting Form. Additional copies can be obtained by calling the Southeast Region Protected Resources Division at (727) 824-5312.
- Take an observer aboard your vessel if so requested by NMFS or its designate.

Please review the Terms and Conditions listed on the enclosed Authorization Certificate. This Certificate may be suspended or revoked by NMFS for failure to comply with any of these Terms and Conditions. If you have any questions about the MMAP and/or the List of Fisheries, please contact Juan Levesque at (727) 551-5779.

Sincerely,

David M. Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

